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MONDAY - MAY 6TH, 2019

75 CENTS

Pastor Tells Gov't To Stay Focused

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
 Journal Staff Writer

Former Christian Council President Dr. Ranford Patterson commending Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis at his government's 2nd anniversary service said that he and his government are doing a good work.

He further advised the Prime Minister and the government to ignore the noise in the market and to continue working to improve the country.

"My brothers and sisters you can understand that this task that you



▶ Former Christian Council President, Dr. Ranford Patterson

■ See page 2...

PM: Gov't To Balance Economic Development

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
 Journal Staff Writer

Prime Minister Doctor Hubert Minnis in his address to a congregation of Free National Movement supporters yesterday sought to clear up some misinformation about the Lighthouse Point Development in South Eleuthera.

Addressing them at the second anniversary service at Cousin AME

■ See page 4...



▶ Prime Minister, the hon. Dr. Hubert Minnis

FIFTH CARNIVAL DEEMED SUCCESSFUL

BY LEAH COOPER
 Journal Staff Writer

Thousands of Bahamians, clad in various costumes filled the streets on the western end of New

Providence on Saturday for when organizers described as "a very successful Bahamas Carnival."

The revelers who danced in some 14

groups, defied the criticisms of religious and rushed from The Thomas Robinson Sports Stadium to Clifford Park in the warm Bahamian sunshine in the 5th annual parade.

The Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) Chairman Fred Mitchell yesterday congratulated the organizers

■ See page 6...

Lighthouse Point EIA In Question

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
 Journal Staff Writer

Environmentalists have raised concerns with Disney Cruiseline Island Development about the adequacy of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) on the

Lighthouse Pointe development.

A joint statement by the directors of BREEF, Earthcare, Recearth, Save the Bays and Waterkeepers Bahamas said the recently released

■ See page 7...

FORMER PM CHRISTIE ENJOYING CARNIVAL WEEKEND



▶ Former Prime Minister Perry G. Christie (Mid-Right) was captured over the weekend alongside former Min. of Youth Sports & Culture Dr. Danny Johnson (Mid-Left) taking in the carnival festivities with a few friends.

RBDF Officer Arraigned For Murder

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
 Journal Staff Writer

Royal Bahamas Defense Force Officer, 34-year-old Jevon Seymour, has been formally charged with murder on two counts of attempted murder. He is accused of killing RBDF Petty Officer Phillip Perpall on

April 28th at Government House.

It is alleged that on the date in question, Mr. Seymour sought to also kill Calvin Hanna and Ellis Rahming.

Based on what Police Commissioner Anthony Ferguson shared during a

■ See page 3...





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Works Minister Commends Electricity Reliability In Abaco

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
Journal Staff Writer

Works Minister Desmond Bannister has confirmed that the Cabinet has approved the investment for renewable energy in Ragged Island.

Following the passage of Hurricane Irma in 2017, Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis announced an ambitious plan to rebuild hurricane ravaged Ragged Island into the first fully green island in the region.

This would have included be renewable energy, solar energy and water purifications system.

“Cabinet has just approved the investment in renewable energy in Ragged Island and so you’re going to see some things happening in respect to renewable there.

“Our engineers are also ready with plans for infrastructure in Ragged Island. We’ll be looking at contractors, so you will see infrastructures started in Ragged Island, a very special place,” he said.

Last year, area Member of Parliament Chester Cooper, lambasted the government for its lag in bringing restoration to that island, as



► Works Minister, Desmond Bannister

repairs were underway in three years after the island was nearly deci-

mated by Hurricane, leaving the island nearly uninhabited.

This year the Exuma’s and Ragged Island MP in the House of Assembly stated that Ragged Islanders are still waiting for its transformation to a green space.

Mr. Bannister assured that every effort would be made to minimize challenges to the project as a result of poor planning.

He maintained that infrastructure will be in place before contractors are mobilized and moved to the island.

After the 2017 Hurricane, the Prime

Minister said health and safety conditions rendered the island unlivable.

Dr. Minnis then announced that the island would be turned into the first fully green island in The Bahamas.

The Prime Minister later explained that renewable energy and smart technology from solar energy and sustainable water purification systems will be utilized for this effort with the help of residents and descendants of the island.

Nearly two years later, there has been little improvement on the island.

Pastor Tells Gov’t To Stay

■ Continued from / PAGE 1...

have, only you can fulfill the tasks that is before you.

“I understand that people will call you everything, I understand that people will tell you that you don’t know what you’re doing. I understand that people will tell you that you might as well quit.

“However, God has

committed a tremendous project in your hands, and if you lead, the project will not be stopped,” he said.

Dr. Patterson alluded to the story of Nehemiah who rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem after it was destroyed.

This, he noted, was a good example of staying focused despite the criticisms.

Dr. Patterson then listed

a number of the government’s successes over the past two years, reminding them that the job is not about them, but about the country as their work is greater than them.

“The Bahamas has avoided another downgrade, boosted our international reputation; so you can’t come down, God is with you.”

“The economy has grown 2.2 per cent in

2018 and a projected 2.1 per cent in 2019; you just can’t come down now.

“The country has seen economic growth for the first time in twelve and a half years. For 12 years, we saw no growth; but today we are experiencing growth for the first time, you can’t come down now.

“Giving opportunities for Bahamians throughout the length and breadth of

the Bahamas, Prime Minister don’t come down; \$3.7 billion in foreign direct investment approved, entrepreneurial opportunities are on the rise, you just can’t come down now,” he said.

Dr. Patterson then acknowledged the government’s work in inner city communities, specifically the Bain and Grants Town constituency.

“Over the hill has been

depressed for many years, now with your vision and your dream, you said you expect over-the-hill to be just as good as West Bay Street. I’m telling you, you can’t come down at this time,” Dr. Patterson said,

Dr. Patterson reminded the Prime Minister that Bahamians are depending on him and gave the assurance that through the criticism, God will take care of him.



ROAD TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT PUBLIC NOTICE

The Road Traffic Department would like to remind all Franchise Holders - Private Schedule, Public Schedule, Private Charter, SD Cars, SD Scooters, Taxi and Livery. To present registration documents for the annual Licensing and inspection documents for the annual inspection and registration for **MAY 2019/2020**.

The following documents are required:-

- 1 Passport/Voters Card, NIB Card (Holders not registered in the new system)
- 2 Update Franchise receipt payment
- 3 Up to date business License
- 4 Inspection/Copies of License Discs
- 5 Up to Date Insurance Certificates
- 6 Vehicle color and right/left hand drive (for new vehicle)

All Franchise Holders with fleet of five (5) or more vehicles are to submit their packages to Road Traffic Department, Franchise Unit, Section 3, Eastern Side of the National Stadium. All Packages will be processed on first come first serve basis.

Please note that the Department will only receive payments in the form of:-

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- B Visa, Master, Debit, Credit Cards
- C or cash

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MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS RECEIVES NEW FLEET OF VEHICLES

BY LISA KNOWLES
Journal Staff Writer

The Cabinet has approved \$3 million for the Ministry of Public Works to secure vehicles, \$1.6 million was allotted in the current budget and another \$1.4 million has been budgeted in the 2019/2020 fiscal plan, another fleet is expected in July.

The Government is looking to do away with the practice of Public Works Staffers actually hiking rides, in some cases to get their jobs done ; for instance,

inspections, as Minister of Works Desmond Bannister put it, not only does this endanger the staff and the public, but causes many challenges.

To rectify this, the keys to a fleet of SUV's trucks and electric cars were presented during a ceremony on Friday, May 3rd, 2019.

Minister Bannister said, "historically the fleet of the Ministry of Public Works has been inadequate, to say the least for the transportation and delivery of requisite services that we provide, and for many years, you as a staff have sought to make due with vehicles that are

aged, continue to see break-down or often times are barely functional.

Wear and tear has taken its toll on the current fleet. Many of the cars are inoperable, many of the cars are in poor working condition, despite constant repairs and servicing and that has resulted in exorbitant cost to the government. In fact, when I was appointed Minister, every single department I visited without exception, complained to me about their vehicular woes, and the inadequacies of their fleet.

"And so you will see some vehicles to today, you will continue to see

vehicles over the next few weeks that we need. The ability to provide timely interaction to the general public and stakeholders and to provide good services is of utmost importance. The Ministry's Technical Teams are expected to carry out and provide assessments, facilitate the design of structures, planning, provide estimates, scopes of works, constructions, maintenance, and renovations of all government buildings, roads, ports, harbours, bridges, even the cemeteries and other government owned assets and infrastructure, as well

as key functions relating to the Buildings Control Division.

"We are truly the Ministry of Everything and to do this efficiently, there is a need to ensure adequacy of our fleet of vehicles. Ministry of Public Works has carefully selected vehicles contingent on tasks and by virtue of needs analysis, conducting of work required on a daily basis. When all of the vehicles arrive, every section of this Ministry and every island will receive vehicles. I am particularly excited that a number of these vehicles are electric

vehicles. We will continue to expand the fleet of electric vehicles, and will also have charging stations at the Ministry to make our contribution to protecting our beautiful Bahamian environment. And those vehicles are virtually silent," said the Minister.

"Mr. Bannister added that the addition of these vehicles will enhance employee morale at the Ministry of Public Works."

The keys to the vehicles were presented to the employees who will drive them to carry out their duties.

POLICE UNCOVER DRUGS NEAR SOUTH ANDROS

BY LEAH COOPER
Journal Staff Writer

A 15 minute high speed chase on the seas ended with three Bahamian men being in custody and the seizure of a large quantity of suspected marijuana this past Friday morning.

Officer in charge of the Drug Enforcement Unit

Superintendent Jamuel Ferguson said that sometime around 6:20am officers, acting on intelligence, ventured in waters some 20 miles southwest of South Andros where they intercepted a white 27-foot speedboat with the suspects on board.

The weight of the drugs was said to be 1,627 pounds, with an

estimated street value of \$1,627,000.

Superintendent Ferguson added that one of the suspects was charged sometime last year for a similar offense.

The trio was brought to the capital where they're expected to be arraigned sometime this week.

RBDF Officer

Continued from / PAGE 1...

briefing at the Central Detective Unit a week ago, a man accessed Government House's Guard House around 2:30am.

Once there, he opened fire on the Guard Commander, wounding him several times before fleeing the premises, the gunman was pursued by marines, but escaped.

It was not long after

that police were talking to a person of interest.

Seymour was not required to enter a plea. Chief Magistrate Joyanne Ferguson-Pratt was not at liberty to grant bail.

He was remanded to The Bahamas Department of Corrections until June 20th. At that time that a voluntary bill of indictment will be served.

Under heavy police guard, Seymour was

escorted out of court where grieving relatives of his victim shouted various remarks at the accused.

This led to near blows with his family, requiring heavy police protection.

Defence Force Commodore Tellis Bethel has been directed to do an immediate assessment of key government structures in the wake of Mr. Perpell's death.



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Cabinet Approves Renewable Energy for Ragged Island

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Journal Staff Writer

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three years after the island was nearly decimated by Hurricane, leaving the island nearly uninhabited.

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PM: Gov’t To Balance Economic Development

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Church on Carmichael Road, the Prime Minister PM noted that the government is seeking to balance the economic and environmental protection and preservation with this project.

“While some have spread certain stories for their own private interests,

others have noted that the Disney project is a model of careful, balanced development. The PLP also did not support this development.

“The PLP and some other private interests don’t care about the needs of the people of South Eleuthera, who have been suffering and in need of jobs, opportunities and hope for a long

time,” he said.

Dr. Minnis noted that it’s as if some people don’t care about the needs of the majority, especially those who desperately need jobs and economic opportunities to care for themselves and their families.

However, he gave the assurance that the FNM government is different.

“The FNM is the party

that doubled the size of the National Park System.

“The FNM is the party that instituted Environmental Impact Assessments. In this spirit, we will remain faithful stewards of our environment,” the Prime Minister said.

Dr. Minnis maintains the government will ensure high environmental stan-

dards and safeguards with investment projects by Bahamians and international investors.

In October 2018 the government approved Disney’s proposal for the construction of a \$250 million to \$400 million Cruise Port and Entertainment facility at Lighthouse Point, South Eleuthera.

In March of this year the Heads of Agreement between the government and Disney was signed in private, resulting in heavy criticism from the Opposition, environmentalists and members of the public.

However the Prime Minister maintains that his deal is in the best interest of Bahamians.



THE PORT DEPARTMENT, MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Port Department
Prince George Wharf
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Tenders are to be submitted in triplicate (3 copies) in a sealed envelope marked “Tender for the Port Department Vessel Decal System” and addressed to:

The Chairman of
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Cecil V. Wallace Whitfield Building
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no later than 5:00 pm on the 31st of May 2019.

Tenders will be opened at 10:00 am on the 4th of June 2019 at the office of the Tender’s Board, Ministry of Finance.

*THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL TENDERS.



THE MINISTRY OF FINANCIAL SERVICES, TRADE & INDUSTRY

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